toba joined the other provinces in Confederation. The Act was proclaimed, making Manitoba a province of Canada, on July 15, 1870.

When Manitoba came into existence in 1870 it was known as the "postage-stamp" province and was only about one-eighth of its present size. Its western boundary was longitude 99† W. (just west of Crystal City-Gladstone); the boundary was latitude 50†30' (Oak Point-Winnipeg Beach); the eastern boundary was 96† W. (about Whitemouth-Piney). The southern boundary was the 49th parallel, the border with the United States. However, the eastern and western boundaries became very awkward because they did no correspond with land survey lines, so in 1877 they were shifted slightly, to the first township lines west of the two lines of longitude.

In 1881 the western boundary was moved to its present location and the northern boundary extended to latitude 52†50'. The location of the eastern boundary was not determined until 1884, when the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England settled a dispute between Ontario and the Federal government (involving Manitoba) by ruling that the boundary should be set at the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods.

In 1912 Manitoba's present northern boundary was set at the 60th parallel.

The years 1889-90 saw the development of one of the most vexing problems in the province's history—the "Manitoba School Question"—and a related one concerning official languages. In 1980 the legislature passed the Public Schools Act, which abolished the dual school system and teaching in the Fench language. The issue was whether it had the power to do away with the denominational schools established in 1871 under the Manitoba Act. The legislature in 1890 also abolished the use of French in debates and proceedings and in the courts.

The Manitoba School Question was a major constitutional, legal, and political controversy for Canada during the next six years. In 1897 a compromise was worked out, providing for religious exercises under certain conditions and the use of languages other than Enlgish for teaching. However, the number of languages used multiplied to the point that it was believed not only Manitoba's school system was threatened, but also her position in Confederation. In 1916 the legislature abolished the use of all languages except English in the schools. The matter remained a topic of controversy for a number of years.

In 1970 changes in provincial legislation again made French a language of instruction in Manitoba public schools. The Supreme Court of Canada in 1979 ruled invalid Manitoba's Official Language Act of 1890.

PEOPLE OF MANITOBA

Manitoba's first great influx of settlers was largely English-speaking, from Ontario. In 1875 some French-Canadians who had left Quebec to settle in New England were joined in Manitoba by others from Quebec and a few immigrants from France. The year 1874 saw the arrival of the first Mennonites from Russia and 1875 the vanguard of the Icelanders. By 1881 many British immigrants had settled in the province and Manitoba's population was more than 62,000—most of whom had arrived in the previous five years. In 1891 the cosmopolitan aspect was further broadened with the arrival of the first of substantial numbers of Ukrainians.

According to the lates available census figures on principal ethnic groups (1981 census figures on this particular topic will not be released until sometime in 1983) Manitoba can genuinely claim a multicultural heritage with: 414,000 British; 86,000 French; 123,000 German; 114,000 Ukrainian; 43,000 Native Indian; 43,000 Polish; 35,000 people from Netherlands; 35,000 Scandinavian; 20,000 Jewish; 10,000 Italian; 5,000 Hungarian; and 58,000 people from other ethnic backgrounds, principally Metis.

Here is how Manitoba's population has grown since Confederation:

1871	25,228
1891	152,506
1911	461,394
1931	700,139
1951	776,541
1961	921,686
1971	988,000
1976	1,021,500
1977	1,029,100
1978	1,033,500
1979	1,032,000
1980	1,028,300
1981	1,017,323

In its early years Manitoba was an agricultural province, and the bulk of the population lived on farms or in small rural centre. A shift to urban living was noticeable as early as the turn of the century and Manitoba has been affected by the same move from farm to city that has affected other Canadian provinces. Today about 70 per cent of the population lives in large urban centres and the rest on farms or in small communities.

More than half the population now lives in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba's main manufacturing and distribution centre, which has about 560,028 people.

According to 1981 census figures other major Manitoba cities and the populations are: Brandon, 35,894; Flin Flon, 7,819; Portage la Prairie, 12,959; and Thompson, 14,102.

The population of the main towns and villages (interim 1981 census figures) are as follows:

TOWNS—Altona, 2,757; Beausejour, 2,462; Birtle, 887; Boissevain, 1,660; Carberry, 1,510; Carman, 2,408; Churchill, 1,280; Dauphin, 8,971; Deloraine, 1,136; Emerson, 762; Gillam, 1,416; Gimli, 1,550; Gladstone, 964; Grandview, 1,013; Hartney, 490; Killarney, 2,342; Melita, 1,156; Minnedosa, 2,637; Morden, 4,579; Morris, 1,570; Neepawa, 3,425; Oak Lake, 369; Rapid City, 431; Rivers, 1,107; Roblin, 1,953; Russell, 1,660; Selkirk, 9,949; Souris, 1,731; Steinbach, 6,676; Stonewall, 2,210; Swan River, 3,782; Snow Lake, 1,853; The Pas, 6,390; Virden, 2,940; Winkler, 5,046; Winnipeg Beach, 565.

VILLAGES—Arborg, 974; Benito, 441; Binscarth, 472; Bowsman, 454; Cartwright, 384; Crystal City, 489; Dunnottar, 287; Elkhorn, 509; Erickson, 540; Ethelbert, 474; Garson, 318; Gilbert Plains, 812; Glenboro, 741; Gretna, 545; Hamiota, 728; Lac du Bonnet, 985; MacGregor, 795; Manitou, 861; McCreary, 618; Minitonas, 628; Mapinka, 132; Niverville, 1,329; Notre Dame de Lourdes, 627; Pilot Mound, 838; Plum Coulee, 592; Powerview, 691; Riverton, 657; Rossburn, 696; St. Claude, 592; St. Lazare, 414; St. Pierre-Jolys, 919; Ste. Anne, 1,338; Ste. Rose du Lac, 1,090; Shoal Lake, 835; Somerset, 596; Teulon, 925; Treherne, 743; Waskada, 239; Wawanesa, 492; Winnipegosis, 855.

UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES—Lynn Lake, 2,142; Pinawa, 2,011.

In 1981 there were 16,364 live births in Manitoba (15.9 per thousand population), 8,634 deaths (8.2 per thousand), 8,103 marriages (7.7 per thousand), and 147 stillbirths (9.1 per thousand live births).

GEOGRAPHY

Manitoba's area is 250,946 square miles or 649,946 km^2. Its land surface is 211,721 square miles or 548,354 km^2 and its water surface is 39,225 square miles or 101,592 km^2.